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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:
Chun-Hsiang Chiang

SERIAL NO.: 09/960,172

EXAMINER: Edwin A. Leon

FILED: September 21, 2001

ART UNIT: 2833

FOR: WIRE MANAGEMENT MEMBER AND ELECTRIC CABLE CONNECTOR
WITH WIRE MANAGEMENT MEMBER

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: A1-082 US

APPEAL BRIEF FOR APPLICANTS

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Applicants: Chun-Hsiang Chiang

Application: WIRE MANAGEMENT MEMBER AND ELECTRIC CABLE CONNECTOR WITH WIRE MANAGEMENT MEMBER

Serial No.: 09/960,172

Filing Date: September 21, 2001

Art Unit: 2833

Examiner: Edwin A. Leon

Case: A1-082 US

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APPEAL BRIEF FOR APPLICANTS

This is an appeal from a final rejection of claims 1-15 and 17-22 that are pending in the present application. The final rejection was made in an Official Action issued in connection with the present application on June 26, 2003, from which a Notice of Appeal was mailed on July 10, 2003 and was received by the Patent Office on July 14, 2003. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(c)(9), the claims pending in the present application and involved in this Appeal are set forth in the attached Appendix A.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Molex Incorporated, having a place of business at 2222 Wellington Court, Lisle, Illinois 60532. Molex Incorporated is the real party in interest by virtue of an Assignment executed by the applicant on September 1, 2001 and recorded in connection with the present application in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on September 21, 2001 on Patent Reel No. 012206, Frame No. 0635.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Applicant and Molex Incorporated, the assignee of the present application, is

not aware of any other appeals or interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal of the present application.

III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims in the present application is as follows:

1. Total claims: 1-23.
2. Claims canceled: 16.
3. Claims withdrawn from consideration but not canceled: None.
4. Claims pending: 1-15 and 17-23.
5. Claims allowed: 23.
6. Claims objected to: None.
7. Claims rejected: 1-15 and 17-22.
8. Claims appealed: 1-15 and 17-22.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

The applicant did not file an Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 in response to the June 26, 2003 Official Action finally rejecting claims 1-15 and 17-22, but did file remarks with the U.S.P.T.O.

V. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A. Background

Electric cable connectors generally comprise a rectangular, electrically insulative connector housing. The connector housing includes a plurality of terminals. The terminals each have a tail extending out of one end of the connector housing and suspending in the open air for soldering to respective wires of an electric cable. Because the tail of each of the terminals is respectively suspended in open air, it is difficult to solder the wires of the electric cable to the tail of each of the terminals, and one wire of the electric cable may be soldered to two or more terminals accidentally.

2.

The Invention Of The Present Application:

The present invention provides for an electric cable connector. Referring to Figures 1 through 3, an electric cable connector in accordance with the present invention is generally comprised of a connector 1, a cable 2, and a wire management member 3. The connector 1 comprises an electrically insulative housing 10 having a plurality of outer walls, terminal passageways 12 within the housing and a plurality of terminals 11 respectively inserted into the terminal passageways 12. The electrically insulative housing 10 includes a plurality of locating cavities 14, the purpose of which will be explained later. The tail 110 of each of the terminals 11 respectively extends out of one of the outer walls of the housing 10 for soldering to the cable 2. The cable 2 comprises an electrically insulative jacket 20 and a plurality of wires 21 extended out of the jacket 20. Each wire 21 includes a metal conductor 210 soldered to the tail 110 of each of its corresponding terminal 11.

A wire management member 3 for use with the housing 10 comprises a body portion having a plurality of terminal grooves 30, a plurality of wire grooves 31, and one or more positioning rods 32 extending from an outer surface of the wire management member. In the embodiment shown in Figures 1-3, the positioning rods 32 extend from the front face of the wire management member 3 in a direction generally parallel to the terminal grooves 30. The positioning rods 32 are respectively received within respective locating cavities 14 of the housing 10 of the connector 1, thereby allowing the wire management member to be properly aligned with the body 10, and positively secured thereto. Although terminal passageway 12 and locating cavity 14 are shown in Figure 1 to be joined, terminal passageway 12 and locating cavity 14 can be separate from each other.

The terminal grooves 30 are adapted to receive the tail 110 of each of the terminals 11. Ribs 33, which may be integrally formed with the wire management member 3,

are located between adjacent terminal grooves **30**. The ribs **33** are higher than the elevation of the tail **110** of each of the terminals **11** received within the terminal grooves **30**, so that the ribs **33** prevent solder paste from migrating to neighboring terminal grooves **30**. One end of each of the terminal grooves **30** is respectively connected to the wire grooves **31**. The wire grooves **31** in the embodiment shown have a cross section extending more than 180° for positively positioning and retaining the wires **21** of the cable **2** thereon. Once the wire **21** is properly positioned in its respective wire groove **31**, the metal conductor **210** of the wire **21** is properly aligned with the terminal tail **110** to allow the conductor **210** to be soldered to the tail **110**.

FIGS. 4 through 6 show an alternate form of the electric cable connector according to the present invention. One notable difference is that the connector shown in Figures 4-6 include more than one row of terminals **110**. The housing **10** is molded from an electrically insulative plastic or the like, and includes a plurality of terminal receiving passageways **12**, which holds the terminals **11** respectively, keeping the tail **110** of each of the terminals **11** extended out of the rear side of the housing **10** for soldering to the wires **21** of the cable **2**. The housing also includes one or more cavities **14**.

The wire management member **3** in this embodiment is a body portion including a stepped structure comprising two platforms **34** and **35** disposed at different elevations. The upper platform **34** has a grooved topside. The lower platform **35** has grooved top and bottom sides. Therefore, the wire management member **3** has three grooved faces. One common end of the platforms **34** and **35** is provided with terminal slots **36** for receiving the terminals **11**. Terminal grooves **30** are respectively provided at the platforms **34** and **35** and extended to the terminal slots **36** for the positioning of the tail **110** of each of the terminals **11**. The platforms **34** and **35** may be separately made, and then fastened together.

Alternatively, the platforms 34 and 35 can be formed integral with each other. The terminal grooves 30 have a substantially U-shaped cross section. Wire grooves 31 are respectively provided at the platforms 34 and 35 in line with the terminal grooves 30 for receiving the wires 21 of the cable 2. Ribs 33 are provided at the platforms 34 and 35 to separate the terminal grooves 30 from one another and to prohibit migration of solder paste from one terminal groove 30 to another.

VI. ISSUES ON APPEAL

This issue on appeal is whether independent claims 1, 9, 15 and 21, and dependent claims 2-8, 10-14, 17-20 and 22 are rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) by United States Patent No. 6,039,611 (“Yang”) in view of Japanese Publication No. 06-231836 (“Yoshihito et al.”).

VII. GROUPING OF CLAIMS

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner has grouped the rejected claims in a single group. Claim 1 would be representative of the rejected claims.

VIII. ARGUMENT

1. Claims On Appeal

All of the claims involved in this Appeal were finally rejected in the Official Action of June 26, 2003 because the Examiner maintained that claims 1-15 and 17-22 were rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,039,611 (“Yang”) in view of Japanese Publication No. 06-231836 (“Yoshihito et al.”). It is the final rejection of those claims that resulted in the filing of this Appeal.

The claims on appeal are set forth in Appendix A. These claims recite various embodiments of a wire management member, a connector using a wire management member or a cable assembly including a connector using a wire management member. The claim

indicated to be representative of the claims on appeal, *i.e.*, claim 1, recites an electrical connector for use with an electrical cable having a plurality of wires. The electrical connector comprises a connector body and a wire management member. The connector body comprises a front side, a rear side, a cavity between the front side and the rear side, a plurality of terminal passageways, and a plurality of terminals respectively received within the terminal passageways. The terminals each have a tail extending out of the rear side of the connector body. The wire management includes a body portion having an end face, and the body portion adapted to support the tail of each of the terminals. The wire management member comprises a projection rod projecting from the end face of the body portion, the projection rod being received within the connector body cavity.

2. The Cited Reference

The Examiner relied on two references in rejecting the appealed claims: United States Patent No. 6,039,611 (“Yang”) and Japanese Publication No. 06-231836 (“Yoshihito et al.”).

A. United States Patent No. 6,039,611 (“Yang”):

Yang discloses an electrical connector. The connector includes a plastic body 1, an insertion body 2, two covers 3, a steel case 4 and two interconnecting cables 7. The body 1 includes an upper and lower row of terminals 11 projected from a front surface of the body, and two rearward extended side walls 12 that extend from a rear end of the body 1. Each side wall 12 includes a guide rail 13 on an inner surface of the side wall. The guide rail 13 is further formed at a suitable position with a retaining hole 14. Two vertically extending insertion slots 15 are provided at inner surfaces of the two side walls 12.

The insertion body 2 includes two protrusions 22 formed at two lateral side surfaces of the insertion body 2 for engaging the retaining holes 14 when the insertion body 2 is assembled to the body 1. The insertion body further includes top and bottom front surfaces

with a plurality of terminals slots 21 corresponding to the terminals 11. When the insertion body 2 is assembled to the rear end of the body 1, rear ends of the terminals 11 are located in their respective corresponding terminal slots 21.

B. Japanese Publication No. 06-231836 ("Yoshihito et al."):

Yoshihito et al. appears to disclose a pair of connectors, one of the connectors 20 including a plurality of terminals 10, and a mating connector 40, the mating connector being used to mate a flat flexible cable to the connector 20.

3. The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)
Of Claims 1-15 and 17-22 Should Be Reversed

In the final Official Action of October 10, 2001, the Examiner asserted that claims 1-11 were rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,162,099 ("Wu") in view of United States Patent No. 5,984,696 ("Lee"). In so rejecting the appealed claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner has apparently misunderstood the invention recited in claim 1 of the present application, as well as the teachings of Wu and Lee, as neither of those references, either alone or combined as suggested by the Examiner, disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1-11 of the present application. Accordingly, claims 1-11 define a frame connector (and a connector system) that is not disclosed in or suggested by the combination of references suggested by the Examiner in the final rejection, and the Board should reverse the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection.

Representative claim 1 recites an electrical connector for use with an electrical cable having a plurality of wires. The electrical connector comprises a connector body and a wire management member. The connector body comprises a front side, a rear side, a cavity between the front side and the rear side, a plurality of terminal passageways, and a plurality of terminals respectively received within the terminal passageways. The terminals each have a

tail extending out of the rear side of the connector body. The wire management includes a body portion having an end face, and the body portion adapted to support the tail of each of the terminals. The wire management member comprises a projection rod projecting from the end face of the body portion, the projection rod being received within the connector body cavity.

In rejecting representative claim 1, the Examiner concedes that Yang does not disclose a cavity in the connector body between a front side and a rear side of the connector body, nor does Yang disclose tails of the terminals extending out of the rear side of the connector body. In order to overcome the shortcomings of Yang, the Examiner directs the applicant to Yoshihito et al., and asserts that the shortcomings of Yang are overcome by the teachings of Yoshihito et al. This is not so.

Despite characterizations to the contrary, Yoshihito et al. does not overcome the shortcomings of Yang. Rather, Yoshihito et al. appears to discloses a pair of connectors, one of the connectors 20 including a plurality of terminals 10, and a mating connector 40, the mating connector being used to mate a flat flexible cable to the connector 20. The mating connector 40 is received within a mating opening in the front face of the connector 20. Thus, Yoshihito et al. has the following failings. First, Yoshihito et al. does not disclose a connector having terminal tails extending out of the rear side of the connector body. Rather, the terminals 10 appear to be of a length shorter than the front to rear length of connector 20. Moreover, even if one were to assume that the tails of terminals 10 extend beyond the rear side of the connector 20, there is not a wire management member that includes a body portion adopted to support the tails of the terminals 10. Rather, what the Examiner has characterized as the wire management member is 41, and that structure mates with the mating opening in the front face of connector 20, and not the rear end of the connector 20. Therefore, even if one were to combine the Yang and Yoshihito et al. references as suggested by the Examiner,

the suggested combination fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness as to representative claim 1. Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, the Examiner erred in rejecting claims 1-15 and 17-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang in view of Yoshihito et al.

IX. CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the appealed claims do define an electrical connector (or a wire management member or a cable assembly) that is not disclosed in or suggested by the relied upon references, whether taken alone or combined as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of the claims on appeal should not be sustained and therefore should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,
MOLEX INCORPORATED

Date: September 11, 2003

By:



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**IN UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Applicants: Chun-Hsiang Chiang

Application: WIRE MANAGEMENT MEMBER AND ELECTRIC CABLE CONNECTOR WITH WIRE MANAGEMENT MEMBER

Serial No.: 09/960,172

Filing Date: September 21, 2001

Art Unit: 2833

Examiner: Edwin A. Leon

Case: A1-082 US

APPENDIX A

1. An electrical connector for use with an electrical cable having a plurality of wires, the electrical connector comprising:

a connector body, the connector body comprising a front side, a rear side, a cavity between said front side and said rear side, a plurality of terminal passageways, and a plurality of terminals respectively received within the terminal passageways, the terminals each having a tail extended out of said rear side of the connector body; and

a wire management member, the wire management including a body portion having an end face, said body portion adapted to support the tail of each of the terminals, the wire management member comprising a projection rod projecting from said end face of the body portion, the projection rod being received within the connector body cavity.

2. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein the wire management member body portion includes a plurality of terminal grooves, the terminal grooves being adapted to receive the tail of each of the terminals.

3. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein the wire management member body portion includes a plurality of wire grooves, the wire grooves adapted to receive the wires of the cable for enabling the wires of the cable to be respectively electrically soldered to the tail of each of the terminals.

4. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein the cavity is contiguous with one of the plurality of terminal passageways.
5. The electrical connector of claim 2 wherein the wire management member comprises a plurality of ribs respectively disposed between two adjacent terminal grooves above the elevation of the tail of the terminals.
6. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein the wire management member body portion comprises a plurality of platforms, at least one of the platforms comprising a plurality of terminal grooves adapted to receive the tail of each of the terminals.
7. The electrical connector of claim 6 wherein at least one of the platforms comprises a plurality of wire grooves adapted to receive the wires of the cable.
8. The electrical connector of claim 6 wherein at least one of the platforms includes a plurality of ribs respectively disposed between two adjacent terminal grooves above the elevation of the tail of the terminals.
9. A cable assembly, the assembly comprising:
 - a connector body, the connector body comprising a front side, a rear side, a cavity between said front side and said rear side, a plurality of terminal slots, and a plurality of terminals respectively mounted in the terminal slots, the terminals each having a tail extended out of said rear side of the connector body;
 - a cable, the cable comprising a plurality of wires respectively electrically soldered to the tail of each of the terminals; and
 - a wire management member, the wire management member having an end face and being adapted to support the tail of each of the terminals, the wire management member comprising a projection rod projecting from said end face of the wire management member, the projection rod being received within the connector body cavity.
10. The cable assembly of claim 9 wherein the wire management member includes a

plurality of terminal grooves, the terminal grooves being adapted to receive the tail of each of the terminals, and wherein a plurality of ribs are respectively disposed between two adjacent terminal grooves above the elevation of the tail of the terminals.

11. The cable assembly of claim 9 wherein the wire management member includes a plurality of wire grooves, the wire grooves adapted to receive the wires of the cable for enabling the wires of the cable to be respectively electrically soldered to the tail of each of the terminals.

12. The cable assembly of claim 9 wherein the wire management member comprises a plurality of platforms, each of the platforms comprising a plurality of terminal grooves adapted to receive the tail of each of the terminals.

13. The cable assembly of claim 12 wherein at least one of the platforms comprises a plurality of wire grooves adapted to receive the wires of the cable.

14. The cable assembly of claim 12 wherein at least one of the platforms includes a plurality of ribs respectively disposed between two adjacent terminal grooves above the elevation of the tail of the terminals.

15. A wire management member for use with an electrical connector having a connector body, the connector body comprising a front side, a rear side, a cavity between said front side and said rear side, a plurality of terminal slots, and a plurality of terminals respectively mounted in the terminal slots, the terminals each having a tail extended out of said rear side of the connector body, the wire management member comprising:

a body portion, the body portion having an end face, said body portion including a plurality of terminal grooves, the terminal grooves being adapted to receive the tail of each of the terminals; and

a projection rod, the projection rod projecting from said end face of the body portion, the projection rod being adapted to be received within the connector body cavity.

17. The wire management member of claim 15 wherein the body portion includes a plurality of wire grooves, the wire grooves adapted to receive wires of a cable for enabling the

wires of the cable to be respectively electrically soldered to the tail of each of the terminals.

18. The wire management member of claim 15 wherein the wire management member comprises a plurality of ribs respectively disposed between two adjacent terminal grooves above the elevation of the tail of the terminals.

19. The wire management member of claim 15 wherein the body portion comprises a plurality of platforms, at least one of the platforms comprising a plurality of terminal grooves adapted to receive the tail of each of the terminals.

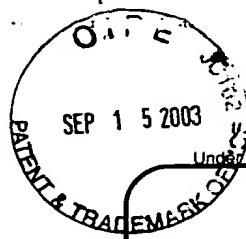
20. The wire management member of claim 19 wherein at least one of the platforms comprises a plurality of wire grooves adapted to receive wires of a cable.

21. An electrical connector for use with an electrical cable having a plurality of wires, the electrical connector comprising:

a connector body, the connector body comprising a front side, a rear side, a cavity between said front side and said rear side, a plurality of terminal passageways, and a plurality of terminals respectively received within the terminal passageways, the terminals each having a tail extended out of said rear side of the connector body; and

a wire management member, the wire management member including a body portion having an end face, said body portion adapted to support the tail of each of the terminals and at least one wire groove for receiving at least one of the plurality of wires, the wire management member comprising a projection rod projecting from said end face of the body portion, the projection rod being received within the connector body cavity.

22. An electrical connector as defined in claim 1, wherein the cavity is provided below the plurality of terminal passageways.



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			Filing Date	09/21/2001
			First Named Inventor	Chun-Hsiang Chiang
			Art Unit	2833
			Examiner Name	E. Leon
			Attorney Docket Number	A1-082 US

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Complete if Known

Application Number	09/960,172
Filing Date	09/21/2001
First Named Inventor	Chun-Hsiang Chiang
Examiner Name	E. Leon
Group Art Unit	2833
Attorney Docket No.	A1-052

METHOD OF PAYMENT

1. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to:

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 Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

2. Payment Enclosed:

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FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101	740	201 370 Utility filing fee	
106	330	206 165 Design filing fee	
107	510	207 255 Plant filing fee	
108	740	208 370 Reissue filing fee	
114	160	214 80 Provisional filing fee	
SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)			

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
Independent Claims	-20** =	X	=
- 3** =	X	=	
Multiple Dependent			=

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description
103	18	203 9 Claims in excess of 20
102	84	202 42 Independent claims in excess of 3
104	280	204 140 Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
109	84	209 42 ** Reissue independent claims over original patent
110	18	210 9 ** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent
SUBTOTAL (2) (\$)		

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FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105	130	205 65 Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127	50	227 25 Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139	130	139 130 Non-English specification	
147	2,520	147 2,520 For filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
112	920*	112 920* Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113	1,840*	113 1,840* Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115	110	215 55 Extension for reply within first month	
116	400	216 200 Extension for reply within second month	
117	920	217 460 Extension for reply within third month	
118	1,440	218 720 Extension for reply within fourth month	
128	1,960	228 980 Extension for reply within fifth month	
119	320	219 160 Notice of Appeal	
120	320	220 160 Filing a brief in support of an appeal	320.00
121	280	221 140 Request for oral hearing	
138	1,510	138 1,510 Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140	110	240 55 Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141	1,280	241 640 Petition to revive - unintentional	
142	1,280	242 640 Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143	460	243 230 Design issue fee	
144	620	244 310 Plant issue fee	
122	130	122 130 Petitions to the Commissioner	
123	50	123 50 Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(d)	
126	180	126 180 Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581	40	581 40 Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
146	740	246 370 Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
149	740	249 370 For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
179	740	279 370 Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169	900	169 900 Request for expedited examination of a design application	
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